

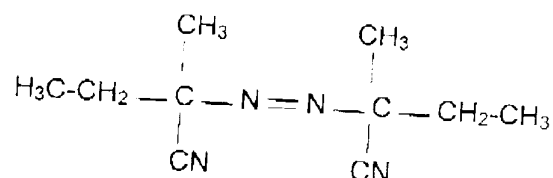
Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claim 11.

Amend Claims 12 and 16 as follows:

12. (Amended) Process according to Claim 17, wherein the following compound

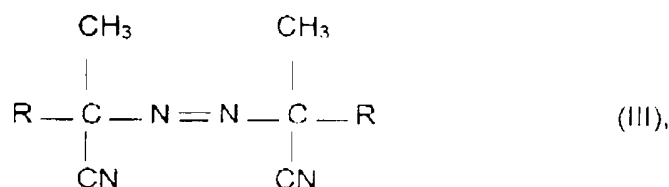


is used as azo compound.

16. (Amended) A thermoplastic molding composition containing a two-phase plastic comprising (I) a thermoplastic copolymer forming a matrix as an external phase, produced from the resin forming vinyl monomers styrene and acrylonitrile, in which the styrene may wholly or partially be replaced by  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene or by methylmethacrylate, and (II) at least one graft polymer produced by a grafting reaction of one or more of the monomers referred to in (I) on a homopolymeric or copolymeric butadiene as a graft base, the graft polymer forming a dispersed phase in said matrix

said (II) being a product of a radical emulsion polymerization process wherein said resin forming vinyl monomers are polymerized in the presence of rubber in latex form having a glass transition temperature  $\leq 0^\circ\text{C}$ , said polymerization initiated by a combination of a persulfate compound and at least one azo compound conforming to formula (III)

Mo6093



where R denotes a member selected from the group consisting of CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, n- C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>, i- C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>, n- C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, i- C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, and t- C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>,

and wherein process comprise in sequence

feeding a first mixture that contains said azo compound and a first amount of monomers to said latex to form a reaction mixture, said first amount being 10 to 95 percent relative to the weight of the total amount of said monomers entailed in said polymerization, said azo compound being in an amount of 0.2 to 3 percent relative to the weight of said first amount, and

introducing to the reaction mixture a second mixture that contains said persulfate compound and a second amount of monomers, said second amount being 5 to 90 percent relative to the weight of the total amount of said monomers entailed in said polymerization, the amount of said persulfate compound being 0.05 to 1.5 percent relative to the weight of said second amount.

Please add the following claim:

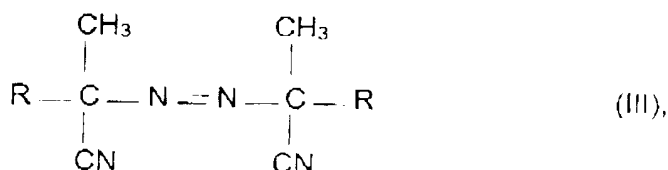
--17. A process for producing rubber-containing graft polymers by emulsion polymerization wherein resin forming vinyl polymers are polymerized in the presence of rubber in latex form using an initiator combination comprising an azo compound and a persulfate compound, wherein

- i) the graft monomers are metered into the rubber latex to form a polymerization mixture,
- ii) adding to the polymerization mixture a first mixture containing the azo compound and a first amount of monomers, said first amount

containing 10 to 95 percent relative to the weight of the total amount of the monomers entailed in said polymerization and said azo compound is present in an amount of 0.2 to 3 percent relative to the weight of said first amount,

- iii) adding to the polymerization mixture a second mixture that contains said persulfate compound and a second amount of monomers, in an amount quantities of 0.05 to 1.5 wt.% relative to the weight of said second amount said second amount being 5 to 90 percent relative to the weight of the total amount of said monomers entailed in the polymerization.
- iv) bringing the polymerization reaction to an end,

wherein a compound of formula (III)



in which

R stands for CH<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub> and their isomer groups,

is used as azo compound,--